

Town will have the state's first street roundabout

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DUXBURY — Bids are being sought for construction of a traffic roundabout at Congress and Lincoln streets.

Roundabouts, which are used in Great Britain, are different from rotaries in that they channel traffic at an intersection into a single circular lane.

The roundabout is designed to reduce speed. "It squeezes traffic down to the point where they have to slow down," Town Planner Thomas Broadrick said yesterday.

State and federal money will pay for the \$350,000 project, the first of its kind in Massachusetts.

The highway safety committee approached state officials about safety concerns at the intersection about five years ago, said committee Chairman Joseph Shea.

"We've had quite a few accidents there," Broadrick said. "It was a priority site."

After conducting a traffic and accident survey, state officials recommended installing a roundabout.

"It should make life safer for everyone traveling through there," Shea said. "We're obviously delight-

ed this is coming along."

Shea said part of the project will also involve altering the traffic flow at the off-ramp from Route 3 northbound, where drivers often ignore the stop sign.

"You're going to have to work harder not to stop," Shea said.

Broadrick said the state designed the roundabout and the town secured the necessary permits and easements.

"It's 100 percent designed and ready to go," he said.

Public Works Director Walter Tonaszuck said the bids will be opened Oct. 26 and construction will probably begin in the spring. He said construction will take about 18 months. Traffic will continue to flow through the intersection during construction.

House Minority Leader Francis Marini, R-Hanson, said he worked with the state Highway Department for the last year to get the project started. For the past two years, the Highway Department has also been reconstructing the bridge over Route 3 at exit 10.

"These are the two biggest highway projects that I can remember," Marini said.